

P. G. #69-4
Butler-Davis House (Old Clements)
4102 and 4106 46th Street
Bladensburg, Md.
Priv/Occ/Res/Fair - Deteriorated

ca. 1760

This is a one-and-one-half story frame building which rests on a 20-inch thick fieldstone foundation. There are five (irregular) bays in the (main) east facade. Entrance is through a small porch which shelters the central bay. There is a large brick chimney at each of the gable ends, the larger of which (at the north gable end) is 9 1/2 feet wide and stands free of the building above the main floor; it has in recent years been stuccoed. Although the building has been covered with asphalt shingle, some of the original clapboard siding can be seen on both gables; the roof, once shingled with cedar, is now covered with asphalt shingle. The windows are six-over-six, and appear to be original. A shed-roofed kitchen addition was built at the north gable end circa 1900.

The Butler-Davis house is one of the earliest houses built in Bladensburg, and is now the only surviving pre-Revolutionary frame house in that town. It was built ca. 1760 by Dr. David Ross, and later (from 1832 to the late 1860's) was the home of Thomas Clements, Justice of the Magistrates Court. In 1886, it was acquired by Edmund P. Godman, who in 1892 deeded the larger part of the house (i.e., two upstairs rooms, the south portion of the ground floor, and the cellar beneath the entire house) to William Giles Butler, a Black day laborer. Four years later, Godman deeded the one remaining (north, ground-floor) room to Thomas Davis, a Black coal-cart driver. This arrangement, from which arose the name, has continued to the present; the larger south part of the house is still the residence of descendants of Butler's daughter, Lena Dock.

Today, the Butler-Davis house is in deteriorated condition, and is the only remaining private home in a three-block area containing warehouses and commercial structures. It is significant not only because it is Bladensburg's sole surviving pre-Revolutionary frame house, but because it has been the home for nearly a century of members of a working class Black family.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Butler-Davis House

and/or common "Old Clements"

2. Location

street & number 4102 and 4106 46th Street ☐ not for publicationcity, town Bladensburg ☐ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county P.G.

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> in process | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> not applicable | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

(1) Mike Dock
 name (2) Merle Harris
 (1) 4102 46th St., (1) 864-3036
 street & number (2) 568 23rd St., telephone no. (2) 396-5415
 (1) Bladensburg Maryland
 city, town (2) Washington, D. C., state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. P. G. Co. Courthouse (1) JWB#25:284
 (2) JWB#35:601

street & number Main Street folio

city, town Upper Marlboro state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title P. G. Co. Inventory of Historic Sites

date 1974 ☐ federal ☐ state ☒ county ☐ local

depository for survey records History Division, M-NCPPC

city, town Riverdale state Maryland

7. Description

Survey No. P.G. 69-4

| | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| Condition | | Check one | Check one |
| <input type="checkbox"/> excellent | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated | <input type="checkbox"/> unaltered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good | <input type="checkbox"/> ruins | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered | <input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | |

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Old Clements was one of the early houses in the town of Bladensburg; it was built circa 1760 by Dr. David Ross, on part of Lot #18. The original building was of frame construction, resting on a 20" thick fieldstone foundation. It has a very high pitched roof and large brick chimneys at its north and south gable ends. The larger of the chimneys, at the north, projects two feet from the building and is 9½ feet wide. This north chimney stands free of the building above the main floor; it has in recent years been stuccoed.

Although the building has been covered with asphalt wall shingle, some of the original clapboard siding can be seen on both gables. Windows are six-over-six, and appear to be original. The roof is now covered with asphalt shingles, but as late as circa 1900, the roof was still shingled with cedar.

A shed-roofed addition was built on to the south side circa 1900, and is now used as a kitchen.

8. Significance

Survey No. P.G. 69-4

| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> social/ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Black History |

Specific dates ca. 1760

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Butler-Davis house is one of the earliest houses in Bladensburg. Built circa 1760 by Dr. David Ross, it is now the only pre-Revolutionary frame house remaining in the town.

This house is known also as "Old Clements", after Thomas Clements, its longest resident. Clements was Justice of the Magistrate's Court, and lived in the house from 1832 to the late 1860's. In the later nineteenth century, "Old Clements" was the home of Dr. Charles Wells, who sold it in 1886 to Edmund P. Godman, the manager of a livery stable. It was Godman who divided the house into its present arrangement.

In 1892, Godman deeded the larger part of the house (i.e., two upstairs rooms, the south portion of the ground floor, and the cellar beneath the entire house) to William Giles Butler, a black day-laborer. In 1896, Godman deeded the one remaining room on the ground floor to Thomas Davis, a Black coal-cart driver. This arrangement, from which arose the name Butler-Davis House, has continued to the present. The larger south portion of the house is still the residence of descendants of Butler's daughter, Lena Dock. The north room, although technically still owned by descendants of Thomas Davis, has been vacant for over 20 years, and is in deteriorated condition.

Today, the Butler-Davis house is the only remaining private home in a three-block area containing warehouses and commercial structures. It is significant not only because it is Bladensburg's sole surviving pre-Revolutionary frame structure, but because of its association for nearly a century with a working class Black family.

Survey No. P.G. 69-4

10. Geographical Data

Quadrangle scale _____

H

11. Form Prepared By

state Maryland

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST WORKSHEET

NOMINATION FORM

for the

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

100-9-4

P. 1. 78

1700785204

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

| | | | | | |
|---|--|--|-----------------|---|--|
| 1. NAME | | | | | |
| COMMON: | | | | | |
| AND/OR HISTORIC: | | | | | |
| Old Clements | | | | | |
| 2. LOCATION | | | | | |
| STREET AND NUMBER: | | | | | |
| 4102 46th Street | | | | | |
| CITY OR TOWN: | | | | | |
| Bladensburg | | | | | |
| STATE: | | | COUNTY: | | |
| Maryland | | | Prince George's | | |
| 3. CLASSIFICATION | | | | | |
| CATEGORY (Check One) | | OWNERSHIP | | STATUS | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object | | <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both | | <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress | |
| | | Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> in Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered | | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No | |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate) | | | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | | <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum | | <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) | | <input type="checkbox"/> Comments | |
| 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY | | | | | |
| OWNER'S NAME: | | | | | |
| Cornelia Butler | | | | | |
| STREET AND NUMBER: | | | | | |
| CITY OR TOWN: | | | STATE: | | |
| | | | Maryland | | |
| 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION | | | | | |
| COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: | | | | | |
| Prince George's County Courthouse | | | | | |
| STREET AND NUMBER: | | | | | |
| CITY OR TOWN: | | | STATE: | | |
| Upper Marlboro | | | Maryland | | |
| Title Reference of Current Deed (Book & Pg. #): | | | | | |
| 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS | | | | | |
| TITLE OF SURVEY: | | | | | |
| Historic Sites in the Bi-County Region | | | | | |
| DATE OF SURVEY: 1969 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local | | | | | |
| DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: | | | | | |
| M-NCPPC | | | | | |
| STREET AND NUMBER: | | | | | |
| 8787 Georgia Avenue | | | | | |
| CITY OR TOWN: | | | STATE: | | |
| Silver Spring | | | Maryland | | |

| 7. DESCRIPTION | |
|---|--|
| CONDITION | (Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed |
| | (Check One) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered |
| | (Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site |
| DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE | |
| <p>The building is a 1½ story frame structure with shiplap siding. On the main (east) facade is a shed type porch. The foundation is fieldstone. On the south end is a shed roofed addition of two bays. The main block of the house has external end chimneys; the one on the north end has been stuccoed; it stands free of the building above the main floor level. The cornice is boxed and there is a simple molding beneath each window sill. The addition has similar siding, a shed roof porch, a smaller boxed cornice and no chimney.</p> <p>The pitch of the roof is very steep.</p> <p>The house is probably an eighteenth century house from the period when Bladensburg was an active port.</p> | |

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☒ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century
☐ 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☐ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY | | | O R | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES | | |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------|---|-------------------------|--|
| CORNER | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | |
| | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | |
| NW | 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 | | 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 | |
| NE | 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 | | 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 | |
| SE | 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 | | 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 | |
| SW | 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 | | 0 0 0 | 0 0 0 | |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| | | | |
|--------|--|---------|--|
| STATE: | | COUNTY: | |
| STATE: | | COUNTY: | |
| STATE: | | COUNTY: | |
| STATE: | | COUNTY: | |

11. FORM PREPARED BY

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|
| NAME AND TITLE: | |
| Christopher Jones, Park Historian | |
| ORGANIZATION | DATE |
| M-NCPPC | 3/5/73 |
| STREET AND NUMBER: | |
| 8787 Georgia Avenue | |
| CITY OR TOWN: | STATE |
| Silver Spring | Maryland |

12.

State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)

Significance of this property is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Signature

S E E I N S T R U C T I O N S

(11/5/79)

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HISTORIC SITES SUMMARY SHEET

P.G. County Survey # 69-4 Date circa 1760
Building Name Old Clements (Butler-Davis House)
Location 4102 and 4106 46th Street, Bladensburg, Md.
Open to Public yes x no

Old Clements is the only pre-Revolutionary frame house remaining in the town of Bladensburg. It rests on a thick fieldstone foundation, has a very steep pitched roof, and large brick chimneys on its north and south gable ends. The larger, north, chimney stands free of the building above the main floor; it has in recent years been stuccoed. The original clapboard has been covered with asphalt wall shingle, but some of the clapboard can be seen at the gable ends. The original cedar roof shingles have been replaced with asphalt. A shed-roof addition was built on to the south side circa 1900, and is presently used as a kitchen.

The house derives its name from Thomas Clements, who owned the property from 1832 to 1865. Clements was appointed Justice of the Peace in 1842 and Justice of the Magistrates Court in the second district of Prince George's County in the same year. After passing through several owners, the house was finally divided, by legal deed, in the 1890's. The north portion, consisting of only one room on the first floor, was deeded to Thomas Davis in 1896; in 1892, the larger part of the house, i.e., the upstairs rooms, the south portion of the first floor, and the cellar beneath the entire house, had been deeded to William Giles Butler. Thus arose the name "Butler-Davis House". The two sections of the house are still separately owned by descendants of Butler and Davis.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

P.G. #69-4

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Old Clements

AND/OR COMMON

Butler-Davis House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

4102 and 4106 46th Street

CITY, TOWN

Bladensburg

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5th

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

P.G.

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☐ YES RESTRICTED
☐ YES UNRESTRICTED
☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

1) Mike Dock

2) Merle Harris

Telephone #: 1) 864-3036
2) 396-5415

STREET & NUMBER

1) 4102 46th Street

2) 568 23rd Street

CITY, TOWN

D.C.

STATE, zip code

1) Bladensburg, Md. 2) Washington, D.C.

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

P.G. County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Upper Marlboro, Md.

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

P.G. Survey

(not in HABS)

DATE

1974

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☒ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION**CONDITION**☐ EXCELLENT☐ GOOD☒ FAIR☒ DETERIORATED☐ RUINS☐ UNEXPOSED**CHECK ONE**☐ UNALTERED☒ ALTERED**CHECK ONE**☒ ORIGINAL SITE☐ MOVED

DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Old Clements was one of the early houses in the town of Bladensburg; it was built circa 1760 by Dr. David Ross, on Lot #18. The original building was of frame construction, resting on a 20" thick fieldstone foundation. It has a very high pitched roof and large brick chimneys at its north and south gable ends. The larger of the chimneys, at the north, projects two feet from the building and is 9½ feet wide. This north chimney stands free of the building above the main floor; it has in recent years been stuccoed.

Although the building has been covered with asphalt wall shingle, some of the original clapboard siding can be seen on both gables. Windows are six-over-six, and appear to be original. The roof is now covered with asphalt shingles, but as late as circa 1900, the roof was still shingled with cedar.

A shed-roofed addition was built on to the south side circa 1900, and is now used as a kitchen.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD | | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | |
|---|--|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local history | |

SPECIFIC DATES circa 1760

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Old Clements is one of the earliest houses in Bladensburg. Built circa 1760 by Dr. David Ross, it is now the only frame house remaining from the 18th century. The 1798 Federal Direct Tax lists 40 houses and stores. Old Clements, then occupied by Bruce A. Carlton, was listed as a 40 foot by 25 foot frame house.

The house derives its historic name from Thomas Clements, who owned the property from 1832 to 1865. Clements was appointed Justice of the Peace in 1842 and Justice of the Magistrates Court in the second district of Prince George's County in the same year. The property passed through several owners, and finally in the 1890's the house was divided by legal deed into two separate portions. The north portion, consisting of only one room on the first floor, was deeded to Thomas Davis in 1896; in 1892, the larger part of the house, i.e., two upstairs rooms, the south portion of the first floor and the cellar beneath the entire house, had been deeded to William Giles Butler. Thus arose the name "Butler-Davis House". The two sections are still separately owned by descendants of Butler and Davis.

Today, the house is the only remaining private home in a three block area containing warehouses and commercial structures. Only the south portion is occupied; the north part, vacant since 1960, is deteriorating. Because it is the only pre-Revolutionary frame structure in Bladensburg, it is hoped that it can be restored and saved from the rapidly encroaching development around it.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

P.G. County Deeds: JRM#6:580; AB#4:229; AB#6:470; AB#7:396;
 FS#2:605; HB#3:392; JWB#7:130; JWB#8:76; JWB#35:601; JWB#25:284.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

William Aleshire and James Maher (AIA)

ORGANIZATION

P.G. Historical & Cultural Trust

DATE

October 1979

STREET & NUMBER

Calvert Mansion, 4811 Riverdale Road

TELEPHONE

779-2011

CITY OR TOWN

Riverdale, Md.

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 267-1438

JAMES THOMAS WOLLON, JR., A.I.A.

Architect

600 Craig's Corner Road

Bladensburg, Maryland 20710

Office (301) 475-6742

Residence (301) 734-7940

13 September 1983

CLEMENTS HOUSE

Bladensburg, Maryland

Introduction

On 7 September 1983 I made an inspection of the Clements House in Bladensburg, Maryland. The following persons accompanied me:

Gail Rothrock representing Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission

John Walton and Cathy Wallace representing History Division, Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission

Susanna Cristofane, Mayor of Bladensburg

The object of the inspection was to familiarize myself with the house and to advise on its preservation.

The inspection was limited due to the fact that the south wing and two adjacent rooms in the original section's southeast corner are occupied and crowded with furnishings. The remaining portions of the original section are in structurally-failing (but restorable) condition, crowded with furnishings in total disarray and very dark with most windows solidly boarded over.

Recommendation

The preservation of the Clements House is of great importance, a high priority. There are but five structures remaining from Bladensburg's eighteenth century: the Magruder House, the George Washington House, the Market Master's House, Bostwick and the Clements House. Properly restored, the Clements House would represent a type not otherwise represented in Bladensburg today but it was a type which undoubtedly was quite common: frame construction, one and one-half stories, simply detailed but far more elaborate than today's simply detailed house.

This structure should be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In my opinion it is worthy of and eligible for this honor. This listing would emphasize its importance, it would make it eligible for funding and its owner could take advantage of available tax credits.

Construction Date

The entire original section of the house appears to be of eighteenth century construction with no obvious signs of having been enlarged. It is possible that one room may be older than the rest, such as the southeast room, but the entire roof structure appears to be of one uniform period. An early photograph shows a shed addition across the rear or west, at least at the north end where there was a third massive chimney; this wing is now missing.

The small south wing appears to date from ca. 1890-1910.

Condition

The stone foundation appears to be in good condition. Portions of the first floor in the northerly rooms have collapsed. Portions of the first story walls are rotted, particularly under windows and associated with the northwest corner. The second floor structure appears sound, except for joist ends associated with the northwest corner. The roof structure appears sound, again except for rafter ends associated with the northwest corner.

These deficiencies are easy to correct by splicing new wood to the old. None of the structural elements were exposed, originally, so there would be no difficulty in splicing new material to the old. The plaster, generally, is in poor condition. Its removal is recommended to ease the installation of the supplementary structural wood, mechanical, electrical and insulation systems.

Much of the original exterior surface is deteriorated or replaced. Some beaded siding remains, particularly on the south gable. The massive masonry chimneys at each end are undoubtedly original and they are very important parts of the historic fabric.

Most original interior detailing remains in place including four excellent mantels, chair rails and baseboards in most rooms, and the trim around doors and windows. Several rooms have corner posts and top wall plates boxed with beaded boards, all in place, and some board partitions remain between certain rooms. The principal losses are the staircase and the doors.

The present staircase appears to be of twentieth century vintage, possibly utilizing some original elements including turned balusters around the stairwell. The floor plan is unusual, neither regular nor standard for the period and I have reached no quick conclusion about its originality. A drafted floor plan by James F. Maher, A.I.A. is the basis for the revised sketch plan in this report.

The south wing, generally, appears to be in good structural condition, considering its age and lack of maintenance.

Nature of this Restoration

The entire structure should be preserved and restored. A historic structure should be preserved on its original site unless relocation is absolutely mandatory, after all possibilities of on-site restoration are exhausted. The masonry chimneys probably could not be moved and they would have to be reconstructed in their entireties, the most serious structural loss in a relocation.

The original section is important because of its great antiquity, the unique frame survivor in Bladensburg from the 18th century. The south wing is important because of its association with black history and the original section assumed a new importance, with the south wing, when the property became black-owned. The south wing is in the best condition and it is small; accordingly its preservation will be the least costly part of the project. There would be no justification in preserving the south wing only, demolishing the original section, for the existence and original use of the south wing depends upon the original section's continued existence.

A reconstruction of the now-missing west wing should be considered to achieve more usable space. At least its exterior should be authentic to the period.

In its location the structure cannot continue in residential use. A sensitive adaptation to commercial usage seems advisable and feasible. An office usage is recommended, like the Magruder House but on a smaller scale. Such a use would allow the preservation of fenestration and interior partitions as well as most other original features.

Further Research

The structure should be documented by photographs, measured drawings and a detailed structural survey. These are the first steps toward restoration and adaptation, documentation for which should, hopefully, follow.

Additional archival research is necessary, especially the 1798 Federal Direct Tax records and county court records which may contain references to it. The 1798 tax record should include its dimensions, thus establishing the relative age of the now-missing west wing. Archaeological research should establish the precise size of that wing.

Costs

Restoration and sensitive adaptation will cost \$80 to \$90 per square foot including some site improvements. Reconstruction of the west wing should be considered to achieve more usable space. The structure now contains approximately 2,520 square feet plus approximately 200 square feet of porches and exterior steps. Counting porches at half-value, the project would cost \$209,600 at \$80 per square foot to \$235,800 at \$90 per square foot. Reconstruction of the missing west wing will cost an additional \$20,000 to \$25,000. Architectural and engineering fees and expenses should be assumed at approximately 12% for normal services.

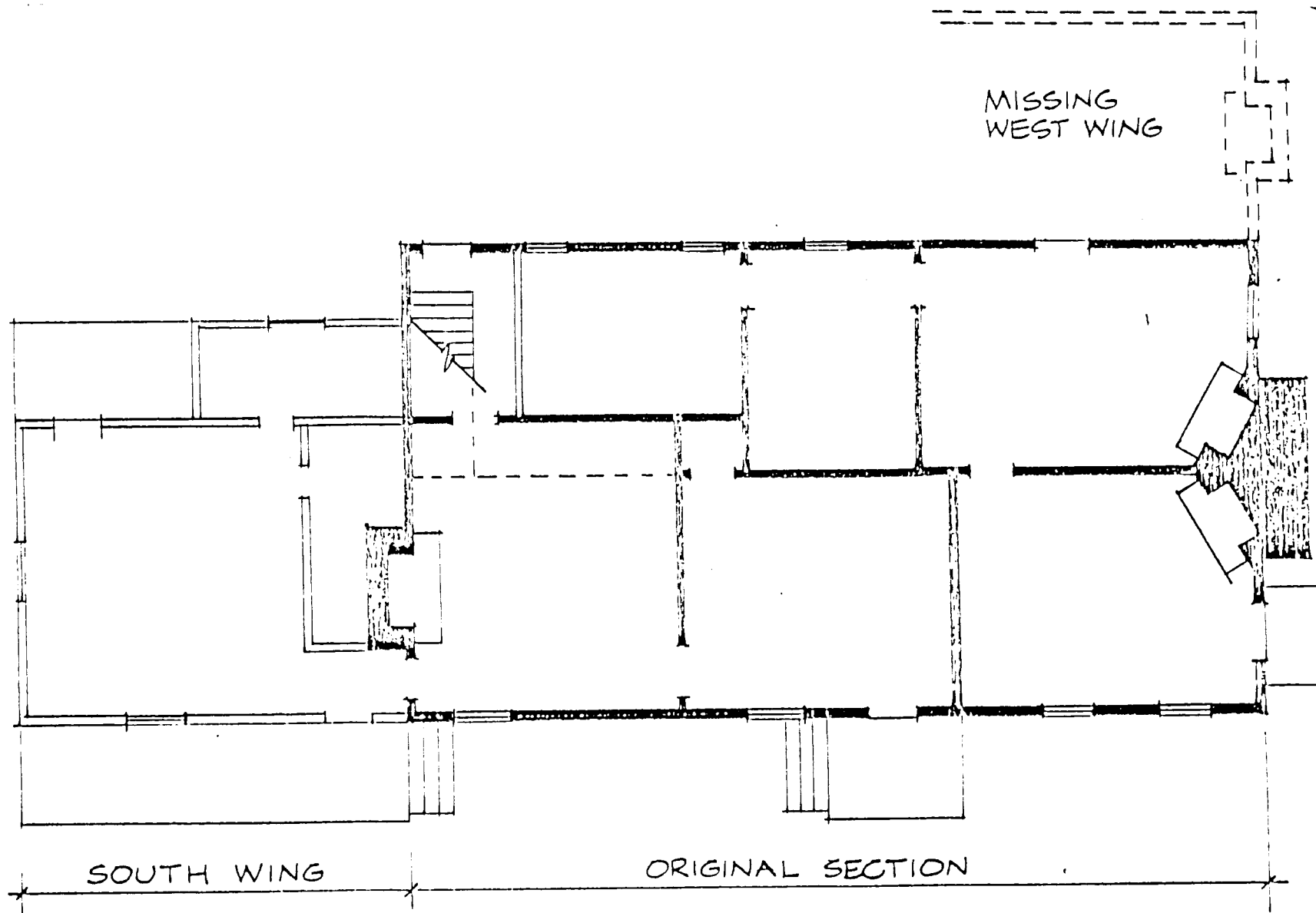
Phasing the project will result in much higher total costs although incremental outlays of money may be more attractive. Some suggested approaches are as follows (current cost estimates, no escalations assumed) the figures cannot be added for a total project cost):

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| a. Stabilization to prevent further decay, assuming no one living on the premises | \$25,000 to \$40,000 |
| b. Rehabilitating south wing and two rooms of the original section as a dwelling unit; stabilization of the remainder of the original section to prevent further decay | \$65,000 to \$80,000 |
| c. Restoration of the exterior, complete, with minimal structural restoration of the interior, no interior restoration of finishes, details and no mechanical and electrical systems | \$130,000 to \$145,000 |
| d. Same as c. but with dwelling unit as in b. | \$155,000 to \$170,000 |

Title Problems

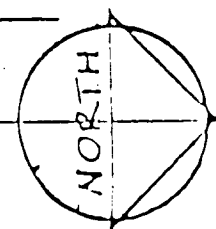
The title to the entire property seems to be a problem due to its fragmentary nature. If the County can condemn the structure and order its demolition due to code deficiencies can this power be transformed to condemnation and stabilization for historic preservation? If "historic preservation" is a term which cannot be used following condemnation could the stabilization procedures be implemented, perhaps voluntarily by a preservation group, pending the courts' clearing the title and consolidating it?

It would seem that condemnation may be the only route toward unifying the complex title.



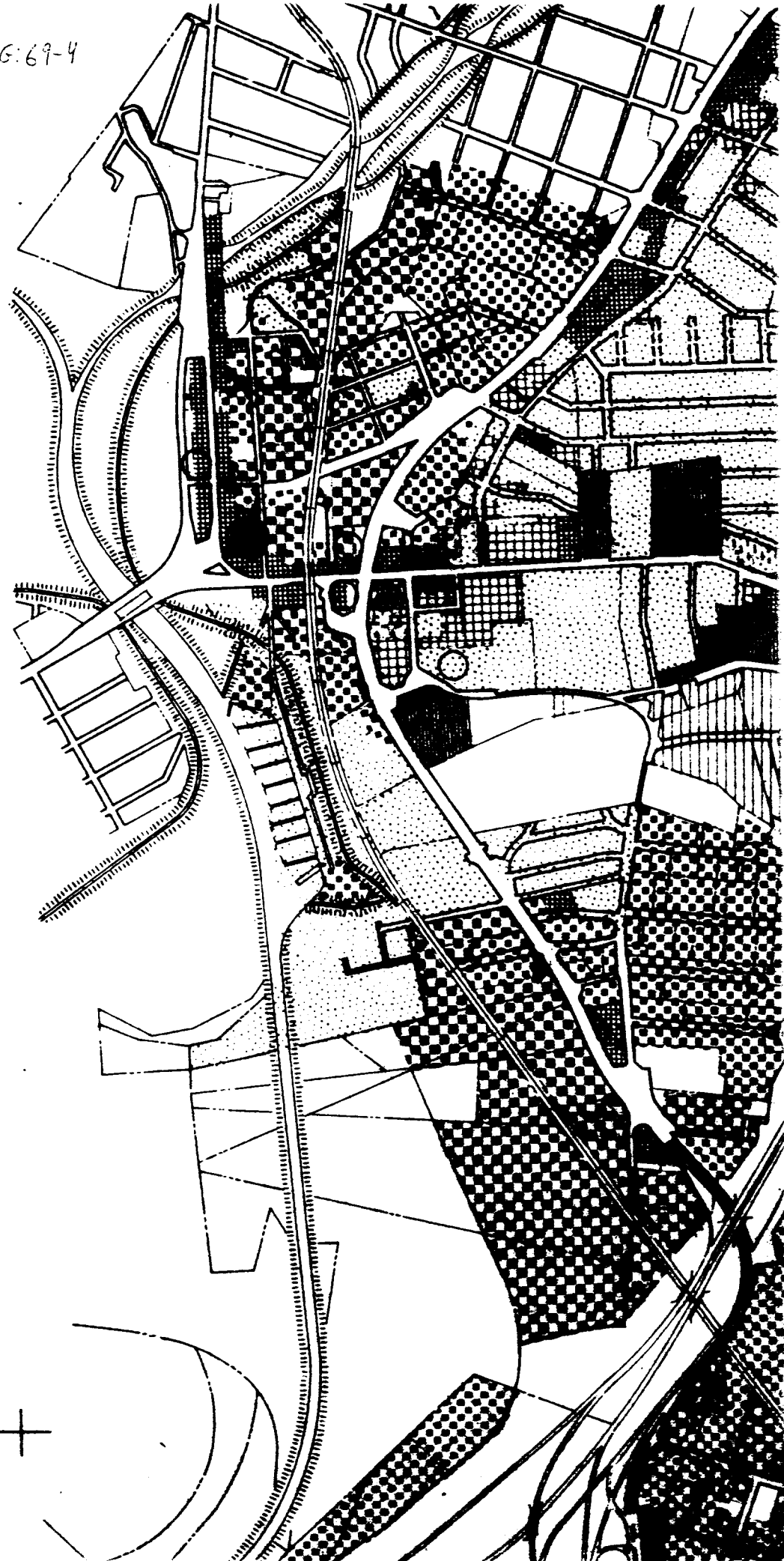
CLEMENTS HOUSE in BLADENSBURG, MARYLAND

PROPORTIONAL SKETCH 7 SEPTEMBER 1983 BY JAMES T. WOLLON, JR., A.I.A.
 BASED ON SKETCH PLAN BY JAMES F. MAHER, A.I.A., AUG. 14, 1980. NOT TO SCALE



PG: 69-4

OLD CLEMENTS (69-4)





COLLEGE PARK

University Park

RIVERDALE

HYATTSVILLE

P.G.#69-4
BUTLER DAVIS
HOUSE

Edmonston

Bladensburg

Cottage City



P. G. #69-4

Butler-Davis House
Prince George's County, Md.
Susan G. Pearl
March 1983
East Elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



P. G. #69-4

Butler-Davis House
Prince George's County, Md.
Susan G. Pearl
March 1983
Southwest 3/4 Elevation
Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



P. G. #69-4

Butler-Davis House
Prince George's County, Md.
Susan G. Pearl
March 1983
Northeast 3/4 Elevation
Neg: Md.Hist. Trust, Annapolis, Md.



NAME #69-4 OLD CLEMENTS

LOCATION 4102 46TH ST. BLADENSBURG MD

FACADE SE

PHOTO TAKEN 3/2/73 MDWYER